Promotion of Research and Development in Electronics Industry

622. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Electronics has prepared a plan for the promotion of research and development in basic materials for the electronics industry;

(b) whether the Department has also set up a material development centre for specific components;

(c) whether it is a fact that pilot and demonstration plants for certain critical components have been set up which are being imported; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and the reasons for which efforts have not been made to manufacture all the components indigenously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS, AND SPACE (SHRI K. R NARAYANAN): (a) A plan for the promotion of research and development in basic materials for electronic industry is in the final stage of preparation

(b) to (d) Through various regulatory measures, Department of Electronics has been promoting indigenous manufacture of components by electronic industry. Only those materials and components for which industry has not come forward due to relatively small local demand but which are of strategic nature, have been identified for taking up for development and subsequent manufacture in pilot/demonstration plants. Electronic Materials Development Agency (EMDA) has been set up to implement major departmental projects

A pilot plant for the production of Beryllium Cooper with an annual capacity in excess of 10 tons has been commissioned with joint financing by Department of Electronics and Department of Space This material has applications in electronic connectors, relays, switches and other electromechanical components as also in space and defence.

Proposal to ban Communal Parties

623. SHRI R SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that communal parties are contributing, directly or indirectly, a great deal to the communal tensions prevailing in different parts of the country;

(b) whether Government have under their consideration any proposal to ban communal parties under the electoral law of the country;

(c) whether Government propose to bring forward any comprehensive legislation for amending the electoral law so as to plug the loophohles contributing to electoral malpractices; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Communal tensions occur due to a variety of reasons. It is difficult to pin point one single factor responsible for communal tensions.

(b) No such proposal is under the consideration of the Government. However, the Electoral Law, as it stands, contains suitable provisions for curbing any tendency to promote anmity or hatred on grounds of religion, caste, race, community or language in elections. The statute also regards such an act as an electoral offence and the person concerned shall be punishable with imprisonment which may extend to three years or with fine or with both. Further, the Model Code of Conduct